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# CODE BLUE PROJECT

## Quarterly Report to the Denali Commission

January 2001 – September 2001

### Project #0024-DC-2001-I6

**Overview:** The Department of Health and Social Services initiated the Code Blue project in 1999 as an attempt to quantify the unmet needs of rural emergency medical services agencies. The development and continuing evolution of the Code Blue project involves a partnership between the department, the Regional and subarea EMS offices, local communities, and funding agencies. The Code Blue Database includes EMS needs supported by Regional EMS agencies and represents a “snapshot” of documented needs in rural Alaska.

On January 18, 2001, the Denali Commission passed a resolution allocating, “up to \$1 million for needs identified in the most current versions of the Code Blue (EMS needs survey) document which are fixed capital projects or otherwise meet eligibility criteria established by the above referenced Steering Committee.”

This report provides information about activities related to the expenditure of Denali Commission funds on eligible projects.

**Completed Activities:** The first three quarters of calendar year 2001 were dominated by Code Blue planning efforts and completion of applications for funding to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Rural Development and to the Rasmuson Foundation.

Planning efforts included frequent teleconferences with regional EMS representatives and others, as often as weekly, and near monthly face-to-face meetings. These efforts were fruitful and we were notified by the USDA that it reserved over \$2.5 million for the Code Blue Project. The Rasmuson Foundation contributed \$1.25 million which was instrumental in completing the funding for Phase I of the project. We are particularly grateful to members of the Denali Commission for their many efforts to help secure funding for this important project.

The Code Blue planning team has worked hard to develop resources to give the project more accountability and longevity. Some of these resources include:

- Brochures and handouts explaining the project and different EMS vehicle types;
- Model bid specifications for equipment in the Code Blue database;
- A database system to use for data entry, modeling and expenditure tracking; and
- An “item assessment form” which helps standardize evaluation of equipment requests.

The initial proposal to the Denali Commission was for \$501,710. During this reporting period, additional items totaling \$462,062 were identified by the Code Blue steering team and confirmed as “infrastructure” in a face-to-face meeting in Anchorage with Joel Neimeyer. Consequently, the projected expenditures using Denali Commission funds for the Code Blue Project total \$963,772.

**Expenditures:** Since nearly all activities during this period related to project planning, few funds were actually expended. In August, 2001, we purchased and distributed \$34,626 in backboard kits to communities throughout the Norton Sound and Yukon-Kuskokwim regions.

**Anticipated Activities:** We expect to expend considerably more funds during the fourth quarter of calendar year 2001 and the first quarter of calendar year 2002 and are on track to expend at least \$217,000.

In an effort to ensure that mountaintop repeater sites and base station radios are properly engineered, we will be contracting with a telecommunications engineering firm for technical support and recommendations. Once these recommendations are received, we expect to quickly begin purchasing the necessary equipment.

**Summary:** While we have not purchased as many items as we had hoped we would by this time, the Code Blue Steering Committee has been extraordinarily busy working on the project and will be expending considerably more funds during the next several quarters.